



# CALIFORNIA NEWS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

## CNPA Services, Inc.

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April 16, 2019

Honorable Todd Gloria  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2176  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support AB 1184 (Gloria)**

Dear Assemblyman Gloria:

I am writing on behalf of the California News Publishers Association to express our support for your AB 1184 which, as proposed to be amended, would require every writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business that is transmitted by electronic mail or other similar messaging system to be retained and preserved by a public agency for at least 2 years unless a longer retention period is required by statute or regulation.

A clear minimal standard for the retention and preservation of electronic is necessary as many local agencies routinely and automatically purge email communications on a weekly or monthly basis. Their reasoning for doing so is based on the fact that the California Public Records Act and most of the existing record retention statutes do not specifically address the time frame for the destruction of these ephemeral communications.

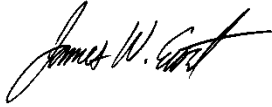
The problem, however, is that in their eagerness to purge these records from their servers, agencies can dispose of records that could provide the public with insights into the development of public policy, illuminate controversial decisions as well as hide evidence of corruption and self-dealing.

AB 1184 would require agencies to retain electronic documents in the same manner that they would be required to handle any other document and provide clear guidance to agencies, journalists and members of the public as to what the appropriate standards are for the custodians of this information.

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CNPA applauds your efforts to protect the public's right to know. For all of these reasons, CNPA strongly supports AB 1184 and we look forward to working with you to obtain the Governor's signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Ewert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent.

James W. Ewert  
CNPA General Counsel

cc: Paulette Brown-Hinds, CNPA President, Publisher, *Black Voice News*, Riverside  
Jeff Glasser, CNPA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, *Los Angeles Times*  
Thomas W. Newton, CNPA Executive Director  
Whitney Prout, CNPA Staff Attorney  
Tom Clark, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus